November 1, 2010

Lisa Jackson, Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Ariel Rios Building
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20460

Cc: Ken Salazar, Secretary, Department of Interior
Gary Locke, Secretary, Department of Commerce
Nancy Sutley, Chair, Council on Environmental Quality
Dr. Jane Lubchenco, Administrator, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Bob Abbey, Director, Bureau of Land Management
John Jarvis, Director, National Park Service
Rowan Gould, Acting Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Jo-Ellen Darcy, Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works
Lisa Murkowski, U.S. Senator from Alaska
Mark Begich, U.S. Senator from Alaska

Dear Administrator Jackson,

We the undersigned hunting and angling organizations and businesses representing millions of sportsmen, outdoor recreation groups and related businesses commend you on your recent visit to the Bristol Bay region in southwest Alaska. Your effort to meet with the region's local residents is greatly appreciated, as the world's greatest wild salmon fishery is facing unprecedented threats from proposed development of a massive mining district. We write today to ask you to use all the tools at your disposal to protect a sport fishing and hunting destination that is unrivaled in America and perhaps the world, for this and future generations of sportsmen and women.

The proposed Pebble Mine in Bristol Bay, Alaska poses numerous significant and potentially long-lasting threats to one of the world's foremost sport fishing and hunting regions. Specifically, fish habitat (including spawning and breeding grounds), wildlife habitat and recreational areas are all threatened by several hard rock mining proposals - most notably, the Pebble Mine. The potential impact from this type of activity could be severe. It is estimated that the Pebble mine would produce between 2.5 and 9 billion tons of waste containing elements, such as copper and other heavy metals, that would threaten several fishery areas including spawning and breeding grounds for world-renowned populations of salmon. If this project moves forward, these toxins would have to be contained and potentially treated in perpetuity - in an area of high seismic activity, which increases the risks tremendously. Because the Pebble property straddles the Kvichak and Nushagak river drainages – two of the most productive salmon systems on the planet - any release of this waste into the surface or groundwater has the potential to severely harm Bristol Bay's salmon and the livelihoods of the sport fishing and hunting business owners, all of whom depend on them for their economic support.

Sport fishing in Bristol Bay generates \$60 million annually; anglers looking for "once in a lifetime" experiences on rivers such as the Nushagak, Mulchatna, Koktuli and Kvichak support more than 800 full-and part-time jobs. Mining activity and increased development associated with mining will detrimentally

impact these areas by direct impacts to fish and habitat. Development will also negatively impact opportunities for sport fishing and hunting operations in the area by diminishing the quality of the experience. Despite the remote nature of the region and the costs associated with traveling to it, on a yearly basis up to 65,000 visitors come to Bristol Bay for recreational opportunities to fish, hunt, and view wildlife.

Secretary Salazar and the Obama administration recognized that oil and gas development in this area is simply not worth the risk, the same is true for mining operations in the headwaters of Bristol Bay. The fish and wildlife values in the region, its size and setting, and the national significance of its resources are, in the words of Secretary Salazar and President Obama, "a national treasure that we must protect." The risk to this national treasure is too great and the resource too unique and irreplaceable to allow the Pebble Project to continue forward. While the nation is still struggling to come to grips with the impacts from the devastating spill in the Gulf of Mexico this past summer, we have the opportunity to ensure that Bristol Bay is not jeopardized by large scale industrial development in fish and wildlife habitat.

The undersigned organizations and businesses urge EPA to proactively fulfill its mission to protect the environment and human health in Bristol Bay, AK by using its authority under CWA Section 404(c) to withdraw waters and wetlands in the headwaters of the Bristol Bay watershed from future specification as disposal sites for dredge and fill activity associated with mining operations. The EPA has an opportunity now to guarantee a future for Bristol Bay that will generate economic opportunities while also conserving sporting traditions for generations to come.

We look forward to working with the EPA and all federal agencies with an interest and role in the future of Bristol Bay's tremendously productive lands and waters.

Sincerely,

Alexandria, VA

National Organizations (13)

American Fly Fishing Trade Association Randi Swisher President Westminster, CO

American Sportfishing Association Gordon Robertson Vice President

Backcountry Hunters and Anglers Jim Akenson Executive Director Joseph, OR Bull Moose Sportsmen's Alliance Tim Mauck Co-Director Denver, CO

Campfire Club of America Leonard J. Vallender Conservation Chair Chappaqua, NY

Dallas Safari Club Ben Carter Executive Director Dallas, TX

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Page 3 of 20

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Izaak Walton League of America

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North American Fishing Club

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Executive Director Minnetonka, MN

Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership

Tom Franklin

Director of Policy and Government Relations

Washington, DC

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President / Chief Executive Officer

Arlington, VA

Alaska (45)

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Alagnak Lodge Michael Santelli

Guide

King Salmon, AK

Alaska Backcountry Hunters & Anglers

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Alaska Bear Guides Scott Newman President Petersburg, AK

Alaska Fly Fish Jason Williams

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Alaska Fly Fishing Goods

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Alaska Salmon Camp, Inc.

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Alaska West Andrew Bennett President Quinhagak, AK

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Alaska's Wild River Lodge

Seth Kroenke
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Port Alsworth, AK

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Mike Trotter Owner / Operator

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Mike Trotter Owner / Operator

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Bristol Bay Lodge Steve Laurent General Manager Dillingham, AK

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Owner Iliamna, AK

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Igiugig, AK

Jake's Nushagak Salmon Camp

Eli Huffman Owner / Manager Dillingham, AK

Page 5 of 20

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Owner / Master Guide

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Kenai Area Fisherman's Coalition

Dwight Kramer Chairman Kenai, AK

Kvichak Anglers
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Owner Igiugig, AK

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Arizona Sportsmen for Wildlife

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Arizona Wildlife Federation

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Page 6 of 20

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Colorado Backcountry Hunters & Anglers

John Gale Co-Chair Boulder, CO

Fishpond, Inc. John Land le Coq Co-Founder Dillon, CO

Page 8 of 20

Fly Fishing Outfitters

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David Trimm President

Grand Junction, CO

Scott Fly Rod Company

Jim Bartschi President Montrose, CO

The Angling Book Store

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Brent Bauer

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Page 9 of 20

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Tibor Reel Corporation

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Idaho (10)

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Page 13 of 20

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Fallon, NV

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Page 14 of 20

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National Leadership Council Representative

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Page 15 of 20

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Wexford, PA

EPA Letter from Sport Fishing and Hunting Interests on Bristol Bay Alaska (Nov. 2010)

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Hans Stephenson

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Page 16 of 20

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Perk Perkins

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Dusty Wissmath

Owner

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Page 17 of 20

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Cynthia Hickey

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Peninsula Outfitters
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Owner Poulsbo, WA **Puget Sound Fly Fishers**

Carl Zarelli

Conservation Officer

Tacoma, WA

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Redington Tackle and Apparel

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Marketing Manager Bainbridge Island

Rogue Outdoor Marketing

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Sage Manufacturing

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Marketing Manager Bainbridge Island, WA

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Sky Valley Chapter (Trout Unlimited)

Max Jones President Monroe, WA

Spokane Fly Fishers Mike Berube President Spokane, WA

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Owner

Issaquah, WA

Page 18 of 20

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Wild Steelhead Coalition

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Wyoming Fly Fishing Guide Service

Ryan Anderson

Owner Casper, WY

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Canada (4)

Fly Fusion Magazine

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Calgary, Alberta

Islander Reels Barry Foster Manager

Saanichton, British Columbia

Torrent Bruno Isabelle Operations Director Sherbrooke, Quebec

Wilson's Fly Fishing

Jim Wilson Owner

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Co-Founder / Vice President – Asia Pacific

Singapore

United Kingdom (10)

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Albury Game Angling

Peter Cockwill

Owner

Albury, Surrey

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Terry Clease

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Llangan, Vale of Glamorgan

European Fishing Tackle Trade Association

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Salfords, Surrey

Hardy & Grey's Limited Richard Sanderson Managing Director Alnwick, Northumberland

Richard Wheatley Limited

Mark Woof

Managing Director

Malvern, Worcestershire

Roxton's Worldwide Charlie White Director of Fishing Hungerford, Berkshire

Page **20** of **20**

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